

THE MUNI MEMO

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MUNICIPAL RAILWAY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RUSSIAN DISABLED COMMUNITY LEADERS TOUR MUNI

In March, ten leaders from the disabled community of the former Soviet Union visited the Bay Area as part of a U.S. tour under the auspices of Mobility International USA. The group toured the Municipal Railway for a day, learning about Muni's accessible fixed-route

ting around.

According to Rickert, "Most severely disabled persons in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe are confined to their homes and unable to get around because none of the services we take for granted



Russian disabled leaders at Muni. Tom Rickert of Access Exchange International is shown standing at right.

and paratransit services.

The day at Muni was sponsored by Access Exchange International, an agency founded by Muni's former manager of Accessible Services, Tom Rickert. Rickert left Muni two years ago in order to work full-time on promoting accessible transit in less developed countries where disabled persons have no way of get-

at Muni are available -- no lifts on buses, no access to trams, and no door-to-door van or taxi services."

Russia apparently is no exception. Muni's visitors reported that their cities had lots of public transportation, but no accessible transit. They started their day at Muni with a trip on the N Judah line from Van Ness station to the accessi-

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A SPECIAL THANKS TO MUNI'S SUPPORTERS

Muni's 100th Anniversary Celebration of Electric Streetcar Operation, which took place over the weekend of April 25-26, could never have been the great success it was without the generous support of Muni's private-sector friends.

During these hard budgetary times, the following businesses, organizations and individuals donated their money, time and talent to this one-of-a-kind event: Breda Costruzione Ferroviarie, the builder of Muni's new light rail vehicles; Morrison Knudsen Engineers, Inc.; the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Society; The Emporium; the San Francisco Shopping Centre; the Market Street Railway Company; and Gannett Advertising.

In addition, Art Lloyd, president of the Pacific Coast Chapter, and Art Curtis, Chief Inspector at Muni, donated historical objects for special display in SF Shopping Center windows during the week prior to the event. California

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Photo: Gretchen Hildner

Management Message



We are still attempting to deal with the loss of approximately 225 Muni employees due to Proposition A's Early Retirement Provision and at the same time accommodate the Mayor's request to trim Muni's budget further to deal with the City's multi-million dollar deficit.

As each day goes by, I know that many of you are wondering what's going to happen next. The Muni and indeed, the City as a whole, are going through an uncertain and somewhat tumultuous period. Not only are we confronting the loss of years of expertise through the retirement of many employees who had been with the Railway for a long time, but we also face reduced funding that will make doing our jobs even more difficult.

I've said it before and I'll say it again. We must stick together during this difficult period and do the best we can. Don't give up and don't get discouraged. Give each day and each task your best shot. That's all that we can ask for. Thank you for your continued commitment to Muni during these difficult times.

Johnny Stein
General Manager

Editor's Box

Dear Reader,

A number of you have inquired about what happened to the *Muni Memo*. Thanks for your patience and even more importantly thanks for letting us know that you do read the newsletter and miss it when it's not there. By now, you should have received your very late March/April issue. As we explained to you, funding problems made it necessary to combine the March/April and May/June issues. Funding problems have also made it necessary for us to do the design work in-house. Thanks to Nicolas Finck for his help.

Unfortunately, at the same moment that our design cofers ran dry, Andres Colon and Alan Winkle retired from PUC Reproduction taking their expertise on printing the *Muni Memo* with them. Patt Lyle and Nelson Ramos of PUC Reproduction have done remarkably well in their absence. In July, we hope to return to a monthly format and to distribute the *Muni Memo* once again at the beginning of each month.

Sincerely,
Anne Milner
Editor

JOB FILE

Until we return to our monthly format in July, we ask that you please call the Civil Service Hotline at 557-4899 and the PUC Hotline at 554-1699 for the most up-to-date information on available City positions.

EMPLOYEE NOTICE

If you or someone you know is losing their vision, the Rose Resnick Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired can help. The Center provides a free professional consultation to determine how to make best use of remaining sight. A variety of Center-based and in-home services are available including support groups for people experiencing recent vision loss.

For information, visit the Rose Resnick Center at 1299 Bush Street or call 415-441-1980.

CONGRATS!

The Divisional Operators of the Month for April and May were:

April

Cable Car:	Bruce Chester
Flynn:	Mario J. Zepeda
Green:	Lawrence E. Bernard
Kirkland:	Douglas W. Lim
Potrero:	Oscar O. Jovel
Presidio:	Danny Campbell
Woods:	Abundio C. Ramos

May

Cable Car:	Stephen Dickson
Flynn:	Leon Wickett
Green:	Anthony Huddleston
Kirkland:	Robert L. Tillman
Potrero:	Thomas Gragasin, Jr.
Presidio:	Ronald Yee
Woods:	Baltazar Nuñez

Unsung Hero



Pauline Gonzalez

1426 Senior Clerk/Typist
Ways and Structures
Administrative Office

FAMILY: Pauline was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and moved to San Francisco when she was four. She attended



Pauline Gonzalez

Cleveland Grammar School, James Denman Junior High and graduated from Balboa High School. She went on to City College where she obtained her Associate of Arts Degree in Commercial and Advertising Arts. She began working for the SF Public Utilities Commission in the MBE/Affirmative Action Office under George Newkirk in 1980 as a limited tenure 1446 Secretary II. She left the PUC in 1987 for two years to work at Laguna Honda Hospital for Director of Admissions Vernon Phelps as a permanent Secretary I. She returned to PUC/Muni when Senior Management Assistant James Townsend hired her as a permanent 1426 Clerk Typist to work under then Acting Superintendent Lynwood Messer.

FAMILY: Pauline has been married to her husband Guillermo for 34 years. They have four children and one granddaughter -

Guillermo, Jr., 33; Roselinda, 32; Phil, 27; Manuel, 25; and Lilarose Lebedeff, Roselinda's daughter, 6.

WHY MY JOB IS IMPORTANT: I always wanted to work for the City and County of San Francisco. It was an inner thing with me for a long time, and when I joined the job market, I was given the opportunity to do so. The public needs assistance in one form or another, and I like to help in any way I can. People are always appreciative of the work I do.

WHY I LIKE WHAT I DO: It's very challenging and I'm always busy. I work with the craftspeople who are extremely professional in their jobs, but need administrative help. I like to make sure things get done for them in a most accurate and professional manner.

SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ME:

My father was a railroad machinist who worked for Southern Pacific. I've always loved anything associated with transportation, so working for Muni makes me feel right at home. I also always dreamed of teaching although I never did. Children are always attracted to me. I used to volunteer at my children's schools a lot, and once I managed a bobbie sox softball team.

HOBBIES & INTERESTS: I love to sew but I don't have much time to do it anymore because of my job and attending academic courses.

WORDS OF WISDOM: One should never say that you can't do something until you've tried. I always try and if I can't do it, then I'm sorry. If it turns out I can't do something, at least I know I've tried.

Photo: Kurt Wong

Awards



April Systemwide Operator of the Month



Photo: Gretchen Hildner

April Systemwide Operator of the Month
Herman Phillips of Potrero Division

Name: Herman Phillips
Division: Potrero
Years with Muni: 11
Background:
Birthplace: Lake Providence, Louisiana
Previous Employment: Butcher for 25 years
Marital Status: Married to Sarah for 32 years
Children: Six children, eight grandchildren
Hobbies and Interests: Bowling in Muni League; watching football, baseball & basketball
Words of Wisdom: "I enjoy working for Muni; also several years go I was fortunate to be selected as Divisional Operator of the Month."

April Systemwide Operator of the Month Runner-up

Name: Eduardo Bustamante
Division: Potrero
Years with Muni: 13
Background:
Birthplace: El Salvador
Education: High Schools: El Salvador, Napa, Mission Adult, Heald College, SF, Electronic Technician; Academy of Computer Technology, SF, Computer Programmer
Marital Status: Married since 1964 to Leda
Children: Daughter, Consuelo, 20 years old and granddaughter, Katryna, two months old
Hobbies and Interests: Cooking and gardening

Words of Wisdom: "You must like your job in order to perform; then everything else falls into a positive attitude."



Photo: Carmen Magaña

April Systemwide Operator of the Month Runner-up
Eduardo Bustamante of Potrero Division.

Awards



April Maintenance Worker of the Month

Name: Damian Gomez
Division: Presidio
Years with Muni: 15½
Background:
 Birthplace: San Francisco
 Education: John O'Connell Trade School
 Previous Employment: Standard Stations (auto mechanic)
Marital Status: Divorced
Children: Mercy, 20
Hobbies/Interests: Watching and participating in sports
Words of Wisdom: "It pays to work hard."



April Maintenance Worker of the Month Damian Gomez of Presidio Division

Photo: Kurt Wong

Transportation Employee of the Winter Quarter

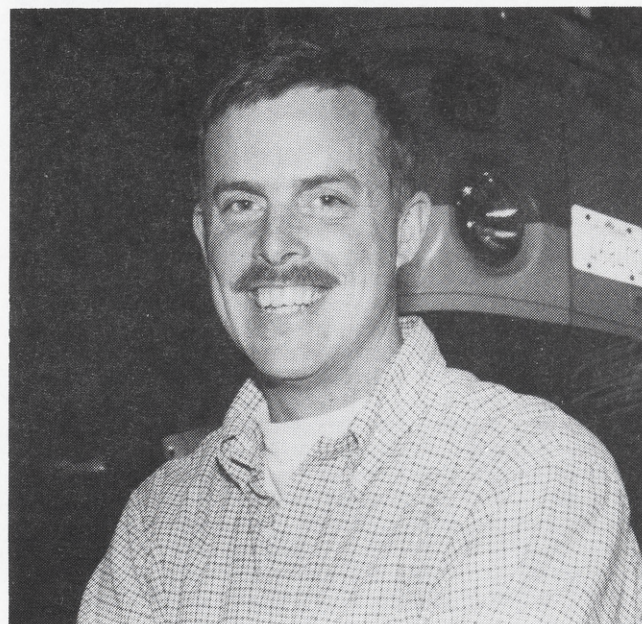


Photo: Carmen Magaña

Maintenance Supervisor of the Winter Quarter Thomas Curran of Flynn Division

Name: Thomas Curran
Division: Flynn
Years with Muni: Five
Background:
 Birthplace: San Francisco
 Education: Sacred Heart High School and SF Community College
 Previous Employment: Herrera Buick
Marital Status: Wife's name is Monica. She works at Bell Market in Noe Valley
Hobbies/Interests: Model railroading, coaching soccer, being a Chief Petty Officer for the U.S. Coast Guard
Words of Wisdom: "Treat people with the respect that you would like to be treated with."

Awards



Transit Supervisor of the Spring Quarter

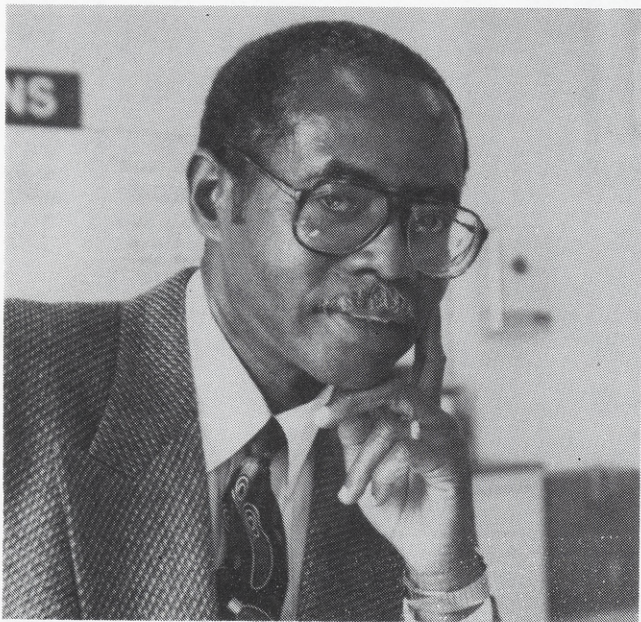


Photo: Carmen Magaña

Transit Supervisor of the Spring Quarter
James Cheeseborough of Street Operations

Name: James Cheeseborough
Division: Street Operations
Years with Muni: 27
Background:
Birthplace: Lake Hamilton, Florida
Education: City College of SF
Previous Employment: Muni transit operator, welder
Marital Status: Married to Janice for 26½ years
Children: Pia, 24; Pamela, 21, James, Jr., 18
Hobbies/Interests: Fishing and reading

Transportation Employee of the Winter Quarter

Name: Dennis Nygaard
Division: Schedules
Years with Muni: 12
Background:
Birthplace: Brainerd, Minnesota
Education: B.A. Marketing and Advertising, Minnesota State University
Previous Employment: Marketing Field Representative for Richards-Merrill, a pharmaceutical manufacturer
Marital Status: Married to Diane for 23 years. She's co-owner of Nelson-Nygaard Consulting at 655 Sutter Street
Hobbies/Interests: Sailing on the Bay, listening to jazz and restoring a 1957 T-bird.
Words of Wisdom: "Do your job, whatever it may be, to the best of your ability. Set your goals high."

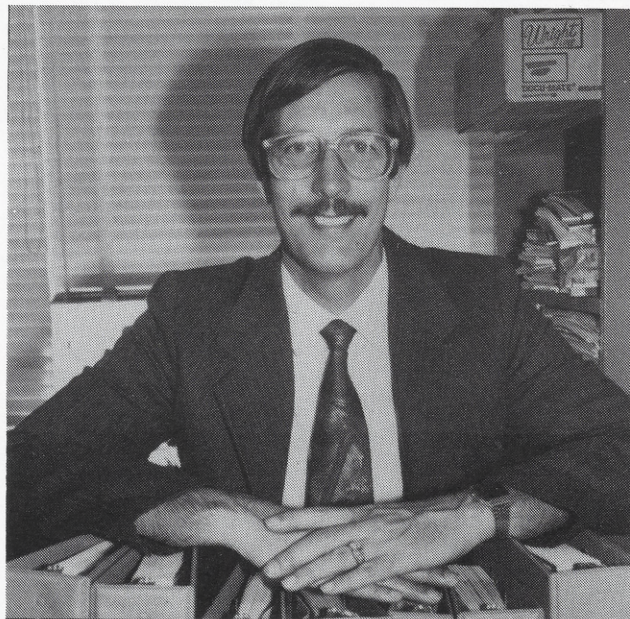


Photo: Kurt Wong

Transportation Employee of the Winter Quarter
Dennis Nygaard of Schedules

Awards



May Systemwide Operator of the Month



May Systemwide Operator of the Month
Eugene Batiste of Flynn Division

Name: Eugene A. Batiste
Division: Flynn
Years with Muni: 27
Background:
Birthplace: Berkeley, California
Education: City College of SF
Marital Status: Married to Agnes for 30 years
Children: Kimberly 29 and Eugenia, 26
Hobbies and Interests: Basketball and bowling
Words of Wisdom: "Always be fair."

May Systemwide

Operator of the Month Runner-up

Name: Arthur L. Sapp
Division: Flynn
Years with Muni: 23
Background:
Birthplace: San Francisco
Education: Polytechnic High School, SF
Previous Employment: Pan American Airlines
Marital Status: Married 17 years to Dolores
Children: Stepson, Jason, 20
Hobbies/Interests: Working on automobile engines and fishing



May Systemwide Operator of the Month Runner-up
Arthur Sapp of Flynn Division

Photo: Carmen Magaña

Awards



May Maintenance Worker of the Month



Photo: Gretchen Hildner

May Maintenance Worker of the Month
David Slyter of Hetch Hetchy Overhead Lines

Name: David A. Slyter
Division: Hetch Hetchy Overhead Lines
Years with Muni: 15
Background:
Birthplace: San Francisco
Education: Balboa High School
Previous Employment: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (10 years)
Marital Status: Married to Betsy
Children: Tina, Jason and Michael
Hobbies and Interests: Playing golf, rock sculpturing
Additional Interesting Facts: "My father was an electrical line worker at Muni for 20 years and my grandfather was a lineman superintendent for PG&E."

Engineering and Administration Worker of the Spring Quarter

Name: Richmond H. Peck
Division: Plant Engineering
Position: 5261 Architectural Assistant
Years with Muni: 25
Background:
Birthplace: New Haven, Connecticut
Education: University of Florida, Bachelor of Architecture Degree
Marital Status: Single

Hobbies and Interests: Gardening

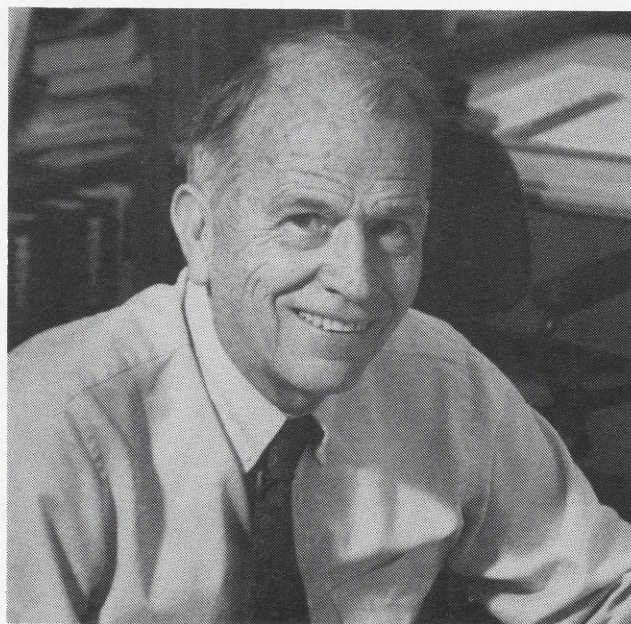


Photo: Kurt Wong

Engineering and Administration Worker of the Spring Quarter Richmond Peck of Plant Engineering

Muni Op's Artistry Wins Gospel Album of the Year

Muni operator Isaac Haynie, who drives trolley coaches from Potrero Division, has something to be proud of. He overcame a drug problem, wrote a song to tell about it called "He Set Me Free," and recorded a gospel album by the same name through Oaktown Records that won the 1992 Album of the Year Award at the Gospel Academy Awards held at the Paramount Theater in Oakland earlier this year.

Haynie produced the album with musician and friend James Williams under the musical name of "Isaac & James." The album was chosen as winner over well-known gospel singers Tramaine Hawkins and Dorothy Norwood.

Isaac, who is a Big Brother in his spare time, has taken his gospel anti-drug message to community groups in the Bay Area. In fact, the clinical social worker at the Substance Abuse Inpatient Unit at the Department of Veteran Affairs in SF had this to say about the album in a letter to Oaktown Records: "I am always looking for resources that will speak to the needs of our patients in ways that they can easily identify with. Recently I have found extremely helpful the 'Isaac and James' album which you produce. The song 'He Set Me Free' is an especially

News



Isaac Haynie and James Williams of "Isaac and James."

powerful aid. All of our patients can identify with the message and find real hope in the fact that someone has found his way back from substance abuse and has become an inspiring model for others. Further, the music has a universal appeal quite beyond its gospel emphasis. I think it will be a powerful influence in turning others to seek treatment also." The album is available through local record shops or through Oaktown Records in Oakland.

Isaac thanks his fellow employees at Potrero Division and, in particular, former Division Manager Bonnie Fitzpatrick, for their support in helping him make the album.

Congratulations, Isaac. Keep up the good work!

Welcome to Muni!

The following operators graduated from operator training on March 16th. Congratulations. We hope that your tenure with Muni will be a long and rewarding one: Thomas Shelton, Zuhair Nassar, Chanh Tran, Frederick Brown, Carlos Gonzalez, Gary Maestas, Doretha Cross, Luis Montano, Nancy Henry, Johnny Randall, Christine Eglip, Daniel Duncan, David Ladd, Leon Juo, Mario Enriquez, Tanglyon Burleson, Darrell Jones, Eric Wong, Renita Jeffery, Keith Dixon, Deborah Franks.

News



Cable Car Bell-Ringing Slated for Mid-Summer

The annual Cable Car Bell Ringing Contest will take place this year in July. The preliminaries will be held on Thursday, July 16th at 5:00 p.m. at the Cable Car Barn.

The finals will be held one week later on Thursday, July 23rd in Union Square. If

you're interested in participating, contact Cable Car Division Superintendent Bud McNaughton, right away. Remember anyone can compete. Last year, Famous Limbrick, who had never competed before, walked away with First Place!



Photo: Gretchen Hildner

Cable Car Bell Ringing is coming up!

Graffiti Update

Walter Argumedo, a youth counselor with Muni's Graffiti Prevention Program reports that an average of 15 graffiti vandals a month, who have either been caught doing graffiti or are at risk of becoming involved with graffiti, are going through Muni's Graffiti Prevention Program. The youth counselors work with those referred to edu-

cate them about the differences between art and graffiti vandalism and the legal consequences of getting caught.

A legal, creative art activity called Positunes offers youth a chance to design a positive message on any subject, which can then be displayed on Muni vehicles. About 100 Positunes are going up on Muni buses weekly.

Get Ready for the 1992 Bus Roadeo!

Sharpen those driving skills, operators. The 1992 Bus Roadeo is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th at Piers 30/32 at the foot of Brannan Street.

All Muni operators, both full and part-time, are eligible to compete if they: 1) successfully complete the preliminary Safety Quiz; 2) possess a current California Class A or B Driver's License and valid Medical Certificate; and 3) have been employed as a Muni Transit Operator for a minimum of 12 months prior to the date of submission of the Roadeo application and have worked 11 out of those 12 months. Also note that Muni Bus Roadeo officials will impose 100 penalty points for each avoidable accident and 200 points for each disciplinary suspension during the 12 months prior to the date the Roadeo application is submitted.

First, second and third place winners will compete in the Northern California Regional Bus Roadeo hosted by the Fresno Area Express Transit Authority on Saturday, August 8th. Muni will combine the local and regional scores. The operator who achieves the highest combined score will represent Muni at the American Public Transit Association National Roadeo in San Diego on October 20th.

The deadline for applications is Friday, June 26th. Good luck to all contestants!

News



Muni to Join AIDS Walk

The Sixth Annual Aids Walk San Francisco will take place at Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park on Sunday, July 19 at 9:30 a.m. That's when Muni will join hundreds of other teams and thousands of individuals to walk and raise money for Northern California's largest AIDS fundraiser, which benefits the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and 11 other Bay Area AIDS groups.

Muni's team number is #042. This year, Muni is offering Muni AIDSWalk T-shirts for 10 dollars. If you would like to order a T-Shirt or if you haven't already registered and would like to do so, call Sheila Mullen at 923-6270.

Last year 13,000 people walked the 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) route and raised \$2.2 million. YOU can make a difference!

Special Awards Handed Out

Congratulations to John J. Hallahan and Gail Bloom of PUC Finance. Hallahan and Bloom each received a Friend of the Muni Award from Deputy General Manager of Engineering and

Riders Speak

Mr. Byron Morgan
Cable Car Division

Dear Mr. Morgan,

During my recent visit to San Francisco to attend a conference, I was privileged to ride in the city's cable cars. The first ride was such a pleasant experience that I took every possible opportunity to ride the cable cars during the week I was there. The gripmen and conductors were uniformly pleasant, cheerful and accommodating and dealt with an incredible diversity of riders calmly, kindly and agreeably. It can't be an easy task to shuttle loads of mildly bewildered tourists and natives up and down those

precipitous hills amidst the confusing, often lackadaisical maelstrom of automobiles and pedestrians, but the gripmen and conductors make it look not only easy, but enjoyable.

The ride itself was exhilarating and San Francisco's hills and scenery made it doubly so. But it was the conduct of the people who handle the cars that made it such a delightful time for me. I would like to thank each and every one of them and I hope you will pass that on to them.
Sincerely yours,

Delia Turner
Haverford, Pennsylvania



Photo: Gretchen Hildner

John Hallahan and Gail Bloom of PUC Finance receiving Friend of the Muni Awards at the May Civic Luncheon

Administration Phil Chin at the May Civic Luncheon at the San Francisco Hilton Hotel for

"Extraordinary Service in Awarding the \$82 Million Dollar Breda LRV-2 Contract."

Russians Cont. from pg. 1

ble platform near Cole and Carl. Later at Muni headquarters, they watched some of the same video tapes used to train Muni operators in accessible transit and heard presentations from the Accessible Services Department, including Manager Annette Williams and staff members Paul Fichera and Lynda Frank. Muni's Paratransit Broker Virginia Cerenio, Thea Lengtat, who heads up the Citizen Paratransit Coordinating Council, and Tom Rickert also spoke to the group.

According to Rickert, Muni and San Francisco are key examples internationally of how accessible transit can work in major cities. Although he admits that increasing accessible transit in cities in Eastern Europe and the Third World is a huge goal, he is optimistic. "Disabled communities all over the world are starting to advocate for increased access and transit agencies are starting to listen," he said. In recent months, for example, Muni's accessible services have been examined by visitors from Algeria, Mexico, and Japan, as well as the Russian group. Rickert also reports that his small non-profit agency has been invited to visit cities in Mexico, Honduras, Russia and Croatia to make presentations on accessible transit.

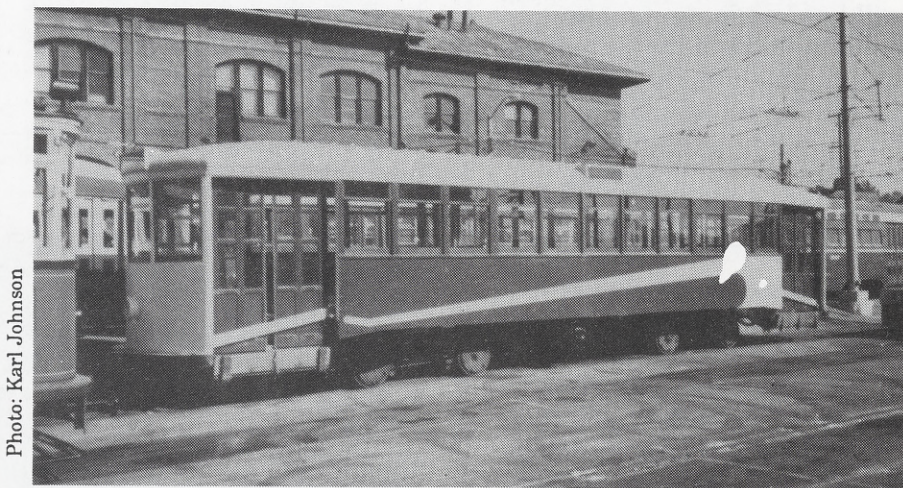
For anyone interested in learning about Muni's accessible services, call 923-6142. For information about Access Exchange International's projects and how you can contribute, call 661-6355.

Welcome Home!

Car 798, an old Market Street Railway streetcar, built in San Francisco in 1923, returned to San Francisco in May after a three-year stint at the Deuel Vocational Institute near Tracy, California, where it was rebuilt.

Car 798, one of the streetcars known as a White Front Car, is painted in the Market Street Railway colors of the mid-1930s, a green body with chrome yellow roof and white front with a yellow "zip stripe" around the body.

The car will join the ranks of Muni's historic vehicles and will probably be seen on the streets again over Labor Day weekend in September.



Car 798 shows off its "zip stripe" at the Geneva storage yard.

Thanks Cont. from pg. 1

Senator Milton Marks also presented Muni with a special commendation from the State Senate Rules Committee to commemorate the 100th Anniversary Celebration. The commendation was signed by Senator Marks and Rules Committee Chair David Roberti.

Special kudos go to Muni Public Relations Officer Gordon Smith who organized and orchestrated the event after having been in San Francisco and at Muni for only six months!

Credits

The Muni Memo is published by the Community Affairs Department of Muni. Contributions and comments may be addressed to the Muni Memo, Room 238, 949 Presidio Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94115, telephone 923-6162.

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